

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Second Essex Senatorial District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Second Essex Senatorial District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 1.7% (2,029) reside in the Second Essex Senatorial District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (386) of Second Essex Senatorial District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 67.0% of admissions from the Second Essex Senatorial District were male and 32.9% were female.
- Over 57.2% of admissions were between the ages of 21-39.
- 88.8% of admissions were white non-Latino, 2.9% were black non-Latino, 5.2% were Latino, 0.3% were Asians, and 2.8% were other racial categories.
- 65.7% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 12.7% were married, and 14.3% reported not to be married now.
- 28.0% of admissions had less than high school education, 46.8% completed high school, and 25.1% had more than high school education.
- 35.9% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 13.4% of those admitted were homeless.
- 15.2% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Second Essex Senatorial District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Use FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Second Essex Senatorial District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	2,050	1,670	630	640	498	488	343
FY '96	1,919	1,500	544	502	389	557	418
FY '97	1,772	1,419	554	422	245	469	353
FY '98	1,760	1,403	544	507	221	479	320
FY '99	1,713	1,368	569	498	228	467	365
FY '00	2,096	1,571	628	497	217	575	444
FY '01	2,029	1,554	604	508	160	617	416

- Since FY 1995, residents of Second Essex Senatorial District reported a 26% increase in heroin use, while crack use decreased by 68%.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine use have remained fairly steady.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Second Essex Senatorial District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	50.6%	25.9%	9.0%	4.9%	1.3%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While alcohol, marijuana, and cocaine as a primary drug of use in your Senatorial District was higher than the State average, heroin and crack were lower within your District.